Rate Depth Strength Quality

Rate (Is it fast or is it slow?)
Depth
Strength
Quality

Rate Depth

ls it **superficial** or is it **deep**?



Strength Quality

Rate
Depth
Strength
Quality

Is it **strong** or is it **weak**?



Rate Depth Strength Quality—

- What's that **diameter** of the vessel?
- Does the vessel have a hard edge?
- How is the blood flowing through the vessel?

Rate

Is it fast or is it slow?

Slow	< 60 bpm
Rapid	> 90 bpm

Depth

Is it **superficial** or is it **deep**?

Superficial	felt near the surface, light pressure
Deep	felt near the bone, heavy pressure

Strength

Is it forceful or is it forceless?

deficient	forceless*
excess	forceful*

What is the **diameter** of the vessel?

thin	narrow, small diameter
large	wide, large diameter

Quality

Is there a **hard edge** to the vessel?

wiry

like a zither string, "crisp and distinct edges"



How is the blood **flowing** through the vessel?

slippery	smooth
choppy	not smooth, rough

Floating	Deep	Slow	Rapid
floating	deep	slow	rapid
scallion-stalk	hidden	bound	skipping
drumskin	confined	regularly irregular	racing
soggy	weak	choppy	stirring
deficient		moderate	
surging			
scattered			

Pulse Images

fú mài (浮脉)

- floating
- superficial

Pulse Images

xì mài (细脉)

- thin
- fine
- thready

Pulse Images

huá mài (滑脉)

- slippery
- rolling

Pulse Images

sè mài (涩脉)

- choppy
- rough
- hesitant

DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION

Rate

Is it **fast** or is it **slow**?





Rate

Is it **fast** or is it **slow**?

Slow	cold
Rapid	heat

Depth

Is it superficial or is it deep?

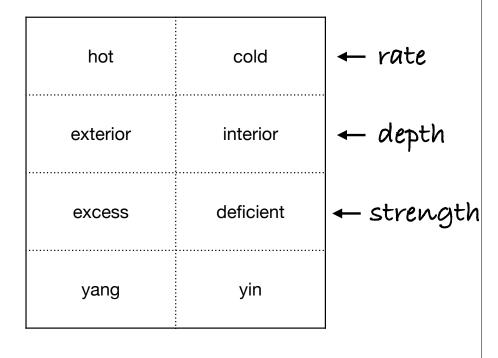
Superficial	exterior pattern
Deep	interior pattern

Strength

Is it forceful or is it forceless?

forceful	excess conditions
forceless	deficiency conditions

Eight Principle Diagnosis



What is the **diameter** of the vessel?

thin	blood, yin deficiency
large	?

Quality

Is there a **hard edge** to the vessel?

wiry	liver patterns, pain, obstruction
tight	cold, pain

How is the blood **flowing** through the vessel?

slippery	normal, heat, phlegm, dampness, food stagnation, pregnancy
choppy	qi and blood deficiency, blood stasis



The diseases in human beings fall into four [categories], known as cold, heat, repletion, and vacuity. Therefore, the student of pulse should take the floating, deep, slow, and rapid [pulses] as the reins in observing disease conditions. This is an unchanging principle.

Zhu Dan-Xi

Positions

	Left	Right
cun	HT/SI	LU/LI
guan	LV/GB	SP/ST
chi	KI/UB	PC/SJ